

III. REMARKS

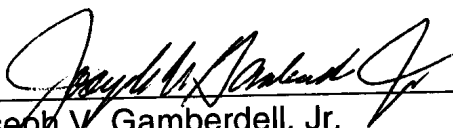
Claims 2-18 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-6, 8-13, and 18 have been amended.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2-17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 2 to include all the limitations of claim 1 and have amended the dependencies of the remaining claims accordingly. Applicants have also amended claim 18 to include the limitations of claim 2. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is also allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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6 September 2006
Date

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